A DISCOVERIE OF THE VNNATVRAL AND TRAITEROUS conſpiracie of Scottiſh Papiſts, againſt God, his Church, their natiue Countrie, the Kings Maieſties perſon and eſtate:

Set downe, as it was confeſſed and ſubſcribed by Maiſter George Ker, *yet remaining in priſon, and* Dauid Grahame *of Fentrie, iuſtly executed for his treaſon in Edenburgh, the* 15. *of Februarie.* 1592.

Whereunto are annexed, certaine intercepted Letters, written by ſome of that faction to the ſame purpoſe.

Firſt Printed and published in Scotland, at the ſpeciall commandement of the Kings Maieſtie.



LONDON
Printed by R. F. for Iohn Norton.
1593.

A DISCOVERIE

OF THE VN-

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and all true



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TO THE READER.

MAny and dangerous points (good Reader) of vnnaturall and treasonable practises of Scottish Papists, or (as they vvill needs be styled) Catholicke Romanes, against God, his church, their natiue cõtry, and the Kings Maiesties estate and person, being discouered by Gods great and mercifull prouidence, partly by the depositions & confessions of some of the practisers them selues, & namely, Maister George Ker, *vvho for that cause is imprisoned: and* Dauid Grahame *of* Fentrie *iustly executed for the same, in Edenburgh, the* 15. *of Februarie.* 1592. *and partly by diuers letters of sundrie of the practisers intercepted at diuers times. It is thought good by the Kings Maiestie and his honourable Counsaile, that the most substantiall poynts of the sayd depositions, should be faithfully taken out of the originals, vvhich vvere deposed and confessed by the said M.* George, *and* Dauid Grahame *of* Fentrie, *before the honourable persons deputed by the Kinges Maiestie and his highnesse Counsell to that effect, and subscribed vvith their ovvn hands, & for the greater ease of the memory of the Reader, should be summarily gathered into this forme follovving, vvhich otherwise vvere scattered here & there in their depositions, according to the occasion of the diuerse demaundes at diuerse times: for the readier taking vp vvhereof, the times of the depositions and persons deposed, seuerally and coniunct-*

ly as the matter craueth, should be set dovvne in marginal quotations: As also, that some of the most remarkable Letters of the practisers, should be ioyned hereunto word by word, vvhich vvere intercepted vvith Maister George Ker, *and the rest decyphered and translated as after shall appeare, and so the vvhole togither to be imprinted, and set forth vnto the vievv of the vvorld, to the glorie of Gods Maiestie (the only reuealer of these secrets) to the comfort & edification of his Church, & the perpetuall detectiō & shame of the vnnaturall enemie. All vvhich things are so faithfully done in this volum folovving, that no man how impudent soeuer he be, can iustly challenge it vvith any falsifying, forging, or chaunging one thing for another, to the vvresting of the original depositions in any the least substantiall parts thereof, as by conferring this extract vvith the first records, vvhich are in the Clerkes hands, most euidētly shal appeare, if any list to looke vpon them. Thou art therfore (good Reader) greatly to consider the goodnes of our God in this case, so vvatchfull ouer his church, for the good and safety therof, by discouering such deep & dangerous practises of the deadly enemy, euen thē, vvhē as we thinking nothing lesse, are readie to be surprised by their close courses so cunningly & craftily conueied, as vve may vvel say vvith the Prophet, our soule is escaped, euen as a bird out of the snare of the Fowlers, &c. As also, thou art to be vvakened vp, to the earnest consideration of the diligence, force and crueltie of our enemies (vvhich yet is nothing abated, but more eager presently then euer heretofore, to atchieue their diuellish intent) & no vvaies to trust them or be secure, as though they vvere sleeping, & minding no danger to vs, vvhile in the meane time, so deeply and deadly they conspire vvithin & without, vvith so great force & craft against our religion, landes and liues, that they dare be bolde in their*

pride,

pride, to assure the Spaniard of no resistance here to their cruell enterprise, as by their owne bragging words hereafter in their letters euidently shall appeare: yea all kindly natiue Scottish men, & true louers of the Christiã religion, ought speedily & substanciallie to concur, to the withstãding & ouerthrowing of this our cõmon enemie, within our owne bowels, whose vnnaturalnes, barbarisme & high attempt, cã be matched with no example domesticke or forrain, that we read of, whether we consider the cruel barbarousnes of the Spaniard, to whom they haue sold their countrie, K. and people (whereof let the monument writtẽ by one of their owne Friers against the Spanish crueltie, beside experiẽce wher they be maisters, beare witnes) or whether we cõsider their most deceitful dealing, couering their most bloody purposes with cloak of most tẽder friendship, which most closely they haue coũterfeited by subscriptiõ to the true religion, by hearing of the word preached, and common profession thereof with vs, and participation of the Sacraments, by bands finally, affinities, othes, and all attestations & lawes sacred and humane that might seeme to procure credit amongst men, and many other things to be enlarged in time and place, as mens callings in Church and pollicie craues. Consider, and consider againe (good Reader) what should be the estate of all honest and godly men, their wiues and daughters, the estate of Church, Common weale & Prince, yea and of the miserable wretches themselues, if their purpose to make the Spaniard our maister (for no mans seruaunt nor fellow will that proud beast be) should take effect: O miserie, miserie, miserie vnspeakeable, especially to themselues, if their wofull purpose succeed to their mind and far proceeded practises. Wherfore yet againe, it is high time and more, that all good men, and louers of their natiue countrie be wakened vp to true re-

pentance to the Lord, vvho ſo heauily threatneth, and in a part alreadie ſtriketh: and to a diligent and ſubſtantiall concurring euery one according to his calling and place, both in land and Burrovv, to vvithſtand theſe deſperat attempts before they paſſe remedie, and timely to preuent the farther danger, by aſſiſting the execution of Iuſtice vpon the reſt of the detected traitors vvithout reſpect of perſons, that ſo vve labouring to take euill out of Iſraell, the Lord vvho hath ſo notably begun the vvorke, may bring it to an happie end, to his glorie & our comforts, through Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

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A DISCOVERIE OF THE vnnaturall and traiterous practiſes of the Scottiſh Papiſts, againſt God, his Church, their natiue *countrie, and the Kings Maieſties perſon and eſtate.*

By the confeſſions and depoſitions of maiſter George Ker, and Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, it is diſcouered, That in March 1591. maiſter William Creichtoun (who hath remained theſe two yeres paſt in Spaine) ſent to maiſter Iames Gordoun Ieſuite, brother on the fathers ſide to George now earle of Huntlie, a Gentleman called maiſter William Gordoun, ſonne vnto the Lord of Abiryeldie with letters, to let the Catholikes here vnderſtand what trauell maiſter William Creichtoun had taken with the king of Spaine ſince his comming thither: and that the ſaid king had opened vnto him that he had bene deceaued by Engliſh men, and would from thenceforth, embrace the aduiſe and way which the ſaid maiſter William would ſhew him, both for inuading of England, and alteration of religion within this realme. And for that purpoſe the ſayd maiſter William craued by this Gentleman, to be ſent to him ſo many blanks and procurations, as could be had of Noble-men here, for the aſſurance of his traffique. Deposed by maiſter George Ker 3.5. and 6. of Febr. 1592.

Vpon the ſight and receipt of the which blanks, ſent with ſome other diſcreet gentlemen, hauing the Noble-mens commiſſion, to be filled vp with ſuch conditions as ſhould be capitulated and agreed vpon, betwixt the king of Spaine, & maiſter Deposed by maiſter George Ker the 3.5. & 6 of Febr. 1592.

And deposed by Dau. Grahame of Fentrie, the 13. of Feb. 1592.

William Creichtoun, which should haue serued as pledges and suerties for the subscribers part, at the landing here of the Spanish armie. It was concluded that there should haue bene sent out of Spaine about the latter end of the spring, in this present yeare 1592. an armie of thirtie thousand men, to haue landed either at Kirkcudbricht, or at the mouth of Clyde, according to the opportunitie of the winde, where they should haue intrenched and fortified themselues for the assurance of them and their ships.

Deposed by maister George Ker the 3. of Febr. 1592.

And first of all, money should haue bene sent to the Catholikes here, for raising of forces to supplie the sayd armie, wherof, foure or fiue thousand should haue remained within this countrie, who with the fortification and assistance of the Noble men Catholikes, their friends, and such other forces as the Spanish monie would raise, should haue immediatly after their landing, begun to alter the religion now professed within this realme, or at least procured libertie of conscience, and Papistrie to haue bene erected here: and the rest of the armie should haue past toward England the neareſt way from their landing to the border.

Deposed by Fentrie the 13 of Feb. 1592. Deposed by M. George Ker 3. of Feb. 1592.

Deposed by Pentrie 13 of Feb. 1592.

These letters sent from maister William Creichtoun, being giuen in credit by maister Iames Gordoun to maister Robert Abrecrumby, were shown by him to Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, at Abirnethie, in Aprill 1592.

Deposed by Da. Grahame of Fentrie the 13 of Feb. 1592.

And for effecting of this matter, it was once thought most conuenient that sir Iames Chesholme, who was then one of his Maiesties chiefe seruaunts, should haue gone to Spaine with this commission, in respect, he was otherwise to passe towards his Uncle maister William Chesholme (called Bishop of Dumblane) for sir Iames had the first credite of this errand with the Noblemen, as he declared to Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, that he had dealt with the Earles of Huntlie and Errol, and conferred with maister George Ker about this matter, about the time of the last Parlement holden in Edinburgh in June 1592. as also communed againe in his owne house with the same maister George Ker, in October 1592. touching the whole heads of this dispatch; but sir Iames

not

not being able to be so sone readie, and maister George Ker being bound off the country, it was thought best, that the same Commission should be giuen to him, and that he should vnder-take the carrying of the said Letters: And so he was imployed in that errand, the rather, because both his grandmothers were Creichtouns. Deposed by Fetrie 13. of February. 1592.

Afterward, maister George being bowne to this iourney, and readie to make saile out of Fairly Roade at the West sea banke, vpon the 27. of December. 1592. Then (by Gods prouidence) the said maister George was apprehended in the Ile of Cumray, and with him there was intercepted sundry missiue Letters directed to this purpose. Amongst which, there was eight blankes, whereof one is subscribed.

De vostre Majestie tres humble & tresobeisant seruiteur, Guilliame compte de *Anguss.*

An other blanke is subscribed.

De vostre Majestie, tres humble & tresobeisant seruiteur, Francoys compte de *Erroll.*

And these two blankes were both procured of them, by Syr Iames Chesholme, in their owne lodgings in Edinburgh, at the time of the last Parliament in June. 1592. Deposed by Maister George Ker 3. of Feb. 1592.

An other blanke is subscribed.

Guilielmus *Anguſi* comes.

An other blanke is subscribed.

Franciscus *Erroll.* Comes. Deposed by Fetrie 13. of February. 1592.

Which were both procured of them by maister Robert Abircrumby, who was the chiefest traueller in that matter, in October. 1592. Deposed by master George Ker 3. of Feb. 1592.

Another blanke is subscribed.

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

And another is subscribed.

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

Deposed by master George Ker 3. of Februarie. 1592.

Which were both with the whole blankes preposed, first to the Earle of Hunlie, by maister George Ker in Strathbogy, at his passing there.

Deposed by master George Ker, 3. of Febr. 1592. and by Fentrie, 14. of Fe. 1592.

Which six seuerall blankes before specified, should haue bin all filled with missiue Letters, by the aduise of maister William Creichtoun.

And the other two blanks, making out the number of eight, were both subscribed in the midst of two open sheets of paper in this maner.

Guillielmus Anguilie Comes.

Georgius comes de Huntlie.

Franciscus Errollie Comes.

Patricius Gordoun de Auchindoun Miles.

Deposed by M. George Ker, 3. of Febr. 1592.

Which two last blankes, were first subscribed by the Earle of Huntlie, and Patricke Gordoun in October 1592. And after being sent with maister Robert Abircrumby, to ȳ Earles of Angus, and Erroll, were subscribed by them in the same moneth of October 1592. And these two blankes should haue bin filled vp with procurations, and whatsoeuer should haue bene thought meet, by the said maister William Creichtoun, for the auouching of that which maister George Ker had in direction and credit of the subscribers, which credit he receiued from the Earle of Huntlie, by the report of maister Iames Gordoun, and from the Earles of Angus and Erroll, by themselues in Edinburgh, in the beginning of October. 1592.

Deposed by M. George Ker. 5. of Feb. 1592.

And the summe of this his credit, was an assurance, that these Noble men should raise a power of horsmen, & meet the Spanish

Spanish Armie at their landing, and reciprocally to assist, accompanie, and convoy them in their passing to England, by all the forces they could procure vpon the King of Spaines charges: And these Noble men subscribers, toke the burden on them, and interposed their bandes, for the concurring of the whole Catholikes of Scotland in this cause, & thought it méete amongst themselues for the better secrecie, that none other should be craued to binde for this errand, but they thrée. Deposed by M. George Ker the 5. and 6. of February. 1592.

With these eight blanks subscribed, as is said, there was intercepted stamps in war, of the Erle of Angus seale of Armes fyr; of the Earle of Huntlies seale of Armes foure; and of the Earle of Errolles seale of Armes thrée.

Dauid Grahame of Fentrie deposed, that he met sundrie times since this purpose was in hand, with maister Robert Abircrumby, as namely, that the first knowledge he had of this purpose was by the said maister Robert in Dunfermling: and afterward in ỳ Castle of Striuiling, before maister George Ker his preparation to his iourny, where M. Robert shewed him, that this Cõmission was to be giuen to the said maister George, to cause the blankes to be filled with maister William Creichtouns aduise, and that he was to deliuer the same blanks, with the other Letters to him, who was to depart and carry with him all this message. Deposed by Fétrie 13. of Febr. 1592. Depesed by Fétrie 14 of Febr. 1592.

Like as the said blankes and Letters, which were procured for that errand, were all deliuered by maister Iames Gourdoun, and maister Abircrumby, to maister George Ker, to be carried by him to maister William Creichtoun Iesuit: And to be filled vp at the discretion and direction of the said maister William, and of maister Iames Tyrie, who was best acquainted with the affaires there.

For the vnderstanding of the borrowed & counterfaited names, that occurre in the Letters following, (good Reader) thou shalt finde them interpreted on the margent, where they are pointed out by this Marke, * which interpretations are conteined in the originall depositions of the practisers, and in some of their intercepted Letters.

A Letter directed from an English Iesuit, and intercepted with M. George Ker, the 27. of December, 1592.

Good father, the inclosed to my Lord, I pray you reade, and take it as written to your selfe: what I write to him, I write to you; what I craue of him, I craue of you; what I hope of him, I hope of you, as of my Patron & Pedagogue in spiritualibus; as of a man, whose discretion and moderation I haue well experimented, in all cases, and at all times. If I had so far ouerlashed, & gone beyond my compasse, as some good fellowes would imagine, yet I wonder that some good men, both in their owne conceits, and other spirituall means, will admit no excuse, no satisfaction, no purgation: when S. Paul to the Galathians, in most euident terms setteth downe this rule amongst the perfect and spirituall: Fratres & si præoccupatus fuerit homo in aliquo delicto, vos qui spirituales estis hujusmodi instruite in spiritu lenitatis, considerans teipsum, ne & tu tenteris. If I had spoken with you at my last being in Italie, as I well hoped, I had perhaps made a better conclusion of my businesse there, then I did to my own content and all my friendes satisfaction, which hope, for all these stormes, I will neuer giue ouer, and when I leaue by your meanes to be vnder the good habering, I wil write to you of that subiect. The Lord Seytoun, in whose house I soiourn sometimes,

times salutes you. Of the affaires of the Catholikes here, I leaue it to them to write and relate, by whose meanes these letters shall be conueighed. My Lord Seytoun hath a hauen of his owne, which may be hereafter very commodious for our purpose. Commend me I pray you to F. Barth. Pere &c. maister Dudley Ilpher knight, and Iohn Thules, which vpon some sudden pushes of persecution, haue made their repaire hither, are in health and salute you. And maister Syall a priest dyed here lately in Edinburgh. Loue me and pray for me I beseech you all, solito. And if you send any into these parts, let them come furnished with as ample faculties as you may. Let them enquire for one maister Ionas, which will be a token betwixt vs. Our Lord blesse vs and send vs to meet once ere we die. Seytoun this 2. of October, 1592.

Yours euer most assured,
Ioan Cecilio.

Blanke on the backe.

A letter directed from the Earle of *Angus*, all written and subscribed with his owne hand, intercepted with maister *George Ker*, the 27. of December, 1592.

My most affectionat commendations premitted, this present is only to know of your welfare and friends, and of the estate of matters where you remaine, and to shew a testimonie of my good affection towards you. For God be praysed if you were in this countrie, I could doe you greater pleasure then I was able to doe before, albeit good will lacked not at any time, as you know. The *bearer hereof can informe you of such things as occurre with vs: for we are here dayly subiect to alteration. You may credit him as my selfe, for so his vertues do deserue. It is not needfull that I trouble you with his recommendation, seeing he is to you that he is, you know his honestie and good intention, and the causes of his departing, to whose sufficiencie referring the rest, my hartie

*M. George Ker.

salutations, and my bedfellowes with all our companie young and old, remembred vnto you and your good company: commits you with them to the protection of God. Edinburgh the tenth of October after our count, 1592,

Yours euer to his power,
Anguss.

To M. William Creichtoun. **Blanke on the backe.**

A Letter directed from maister *Iames Gordoun* to maister *William Creichtoun*, intercepted with maister *George Ker*, the 17. of December, 1592.

M. George Ker. TRustie friend, after most hartie commendations, your friends that are here, haue directed this present bearer to you, for full resolution of all your affaires in these quarters, we haue delayed ouer long I graunt, but he wil shew you the cause of all. The best is first ye vse all expedition in time coming, against the next summer, otherwise you will lose credit here with your factors. If ye come, ye will find more friends then euer ye had, but otherwise ye wil find fewer: because the next summer manie are bound to other countries, and wil not abide on you no longer. Hast home hither some word to your friends, that we may put them in good hope of you, and they will tarrie the longer. The bearer is an honest man, and very sufficient, ye may credit him as my selfe. I should haue come with him my selfe, were it not I was persuaded that you would remaine satisfied with our answere, and because I had a let out of Flaunders. As the bearer can shew you, ye haue gotten all that ye desired, therefore make hast. The bearer is come vnto you on his owne charge, therefore ye must haue respect to him. The last bearer that ye sent, came behind hand here, and hath gotten no satisfaction as yet, because nothing could be gotten here, and we could find no man but this, that would

Relation to the blankes.

would paſſe on his owne charge, and I feare, that if he had not come on his own expenſes, ye ſhould not haue receiued anſwer ſo ſone, therefore ye ſhould intreat him the better. We loke for your ſelfe here ſhortly, and I would you brought the reſt of your friends with you that are beyond the ſea: * for if your purpoſe paſſe forward, they muſt be alſo preſent, other wiſe we muſt come and viſite you. All other affaires of this countrie, I will commit to the bearer, who is faithful. Your wife and your children * commend them vnto you, and loke to ſée you ſhortly. If I or Sandeſoun * your friend receiue any ſiluer from the bearer, you ſhall be aduertiſed by an other ticket, how much it is, and ſubſcribed with both our hands. The reſt I will refer to the bearer. God preſerue you euer from all euill. At Dundie the 20 of Nouember, 1592.

The Spaniſh armie.

The Catholike Romans and their confederates.

M. Robert Abircrumby.

Your moſt affectioned
to his power,
I. Chriſteſoun. *

M. Iames Gordoun.

Directed on the backe.

To his aſſured friend George Craufurd. *

M. William Creichtoun.

A Letter directed from maiſter *Robert Abircrumby* to maiſter *William Creichtoun*, intercepted with maiſter *George Ker*, the 27 of December. 1592.

AFter my due and humble ſalutations and offer of ſeruice, I greeue and lament heauily the ſlouth and negligence your merchands haue vſed in anſwering of your laſt ſute you propoſed to them. For apparantly, if they had made anſwer in due time, our wares had bene here in due time, with our great profit and conſolation. The ſtay and ſtop of the matter apparantly, was lacke of expenſes, that no man would of his owne charges take that voyage in hand: yea, ſome craued a thouſand crownes for his expenſes. So the matter was once wholy giuen ouer and almoſt cleane forgot, vntill it pleaſed God of his diuine prouidence to ſtir vp this bearer, to take the matter in

hand on his owne expences: as hée hath bene euer bent in that cause, not onely to spend his goods, but also the thing which is more deare to him, that is, his life: therefore I thinke he should be the more acceptable: as also for the affinitie of blud, for both his grandmothers were Creichtones. And as for wit & abilitie, in treating of those affairs, he is not inferiour to any of your merchands which you desired, as ye wil perceiue by experience God willing. And albeit that he of his couragious liberalitie and zeale to the cause, hath takē the matter in hand on his own charges, yet all your friends in these quarters thinke it verie reasonable, that al should be repaied to him againe, cum vsura, with promotion till any other accident should fall out, for the weale and furtherance of this cause, &c. But now I will say one word of him, and so come to some other purpose of our own:

The hyperbolicall and ridiculous commendation of M. George Ker.

If I had a thousand tongues, with so many mouthes, with Ciceroes eloquence, I could not be worthie ynough to commend this Gentleman, to you and all your company, as I shall let you vnderstand, God willing, if euer we dos chaunce to mēt face to face: and therefore whensoeuer ye may, preuent him with any benefit, either by your selfe or any other, abide not till he craue it of you, for he is the worst asker in his own cause, that euer ye conuersed with, Sed nunc ad alia. If you be well remembred, at your departing out of this countrie, you gaue maister Iames Makcartnay a procuratory to intermeddle with maister Alexander Homes little lining he hath here in East Lowthiane, the which he pleaded and obtained in law, and take vp the yearely rents therof to his own behoufe, & gines his none of it. In the mean time there falles out such incumbrāces touching that land, that we are like to lose the whole. The sayd maister Alexanders neareſt friends and heires, haue in iudgement prowed him to be dead, and so enter as heires to him. In the meane time, the Laird of Spot his chiefe lord is forfeited, and so the land wairds, so that we are like to lose al if remedie be not found. Wherefore, falling in consultation with maister Alexander King, he thought best to sell the land vnto him, and we to vse the siluer in a more sure manner, of the which ye shall receiue some writings * from this bearer, the which ye will

* These writings intercepted with the rest, are a charter

will vnderstand better then I. Onely I thinke if some meanes be not vsed, we shall lose all, & better it is to haue some thing, nor lose all. As for the price set ye it downe, for he hath mentioned none as yet; but he will giue as much as any other, because as he saies, he hath some land lying neare to it. I pray you answere vs with speede. I doubt not but ye haue heard, how the yong man, whose father was slaine by the Laird of Ruthvenis slue him againe, whose Ladie is married to one Iames Reid. Camnay is come into the Constables hands; and your Nephew is priuie of it, and that by the meane I trow, of Abraham your brother: but your Maich is litle better thē beggred. Drumkilbo is dead, and Thomas Tyrie is Tutor. I pray you aduertise me by what manner, maister Stephen Wilsoun came by my Lord Leuingstons Obligation, the which you had of the fortie Crownes his L. owed you: For maister Stephen hath gotten the fortie Crownes, rendering the Obligation which ye had: I durst neuer make mention of the hundreth Crownes from the father, and fortie Crownes from the sonne, which ye left me authoritie to aske, &c. My Lord Leuingstone, is departed out of this world. Ye heard before, that Dauid Forester * had one sonne, and now hath an other borne in the Castle of Striueling, where he is in ward, hardly handled. There is but one of our Nobilitie here, which hath of the King of Spaine any pension well payde of twelue hundreth Crownes. The which apparantly are euill bestowed: For he nor none of his as yet, hath euer done any kind of good in the promotion of the kings matters: wherfore such pensions were better bestowed on others, who trauell daily and hourly, putting in hazard both their goods & liues, as this bearer hath done and daily doth: and others, as he can shew you, &c. Because I haue no other thing to write, and haue bene long inough, I commend me to your praiers, and you to God. At Scotland the 15. of December. 1592.

and obligation to be past by M. Alexander Home of Palywell to M. Alexander King his heires and assigns of foure teame lands in the Lordship of Spot, with a missiue letter directed by him to that effect.

Dauid Grahame of Fentrie.

Enuy amongst the Papists themselues.

Yours at his power

Robert Sandesoun. * M. Robert Abircrumby.

Directed on the backe.

To his trustie friend George Crauford. * M. William Creichtoun.

A Letter directed to the King of Spaine, by three Noble men of Scotland, whereof, two haue since returned to the profession and defence of the truth, by their oathes and subscriptions, wherfore their names are suppressed, the third his name expressed (to wit, the Earle of Huntly) because he continueth as yet in his former wicked course. This Letter writtē by them in the name of the Catholicke Noblemen of Scotland, cyphered in French, was intercepted in Ianuarie, 1589. lately before the time of the Rode of the Bridge of Die, afterward was decyphered word by word, and translated into Scottish as followeth.

They are sory that the Spanish fleete past by, without landing in Scotland.

SIR, we cannot sufficiently expresse by speech, the great griefe we haue conceiued, being frustrate of the hope we haue so long had to see this yeare past, the desired effects fall out which we attended of your Maiesties preparations. And our displesures haue bin so much greater, that your naual armies should haue passed by so neare vs, vnuisiting vs, who expected the same with sufficient forces for the peaceable receipt and assisting thereof, against all enemies, in such sort, that it should haue had no resistance in this Country, and with our support should haue giuen inough to do to England. At least, if it had come here to refresh it, it had preserued a number of vessels and men, which we know haue perished neare our Iles, and vpon the coast of Ireland. And had discouered an incredible number of friends, in full readinesse to haue run the same fortune with it, in such sort, as we dare wel affirme, it should not haue found halfe so many in England, for all that is spoken by the English Catholikes refuged there, who by emulation, or rather by an vnchristian enuy extenuate ouer farre our meanes to ayd you, to magnifie their owne only, and make themselues to be esteemed able to do all, to aduance themselues thereby, in credit

The Spaniard should haue had great assistance in Scotland.

with

with your Maiestie, ſuch as are about you: but the experience of this their paſſage, hath ſufficiently teſtified, they haue not ſhowne themſelues in ſuch number to aſſiſt your forces as we haue done. And therfore your Maiestie, as moſt wiſe, as ye are, ſhal if it pleaſe you, make ſuch account of the one, as ye neglect not the other, and ſo ſerue you with them both, to the end ye pretend, without hazarding your forces for the particular of the one or the other. We remit to the declaration of ſome of your own ſubiects that haue bene here, the commodities and aduantages of landing in theſe parts, where the expenſes beſtowed vpon the equippage of one Galliaſſe, ſhall bring more frute to your ſeruice, then ye may haue of ten vpon the Sea. And we may aſſure your Maieſtie, that hauing once fiue thouſand men here of your own with mony, ye may leauie here forces of this Countrey, as freely as in Spaine, who will ſerue you no leſſe faithfully then your owne naturall ſubiects. And albeit we cannot without blame of preſumption, giue your Maieſtie aduiſe in your affaires there: Alwaies in that, that may concern your ſeruice here, we may ſpeake more freely, as being vpon the place, and knowing by ordinarie experience many things vnknowne to any of yours that are not here. The ouer late arriuall of your Armie in our waters, toke from it the commoditie, to retire it ſelfe in ſuch ſafetie, as it might haue done comming ſooner, by reaſon of the great windes that are ordinarie here in haruеſt: as alſo lack of Pylots experimented vpon the coaſts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, appeareth to haue bred great harme to the ſayd Armie, whhich we could haue remedied concerning Scotland, to haue ſent Pilots from this if it had liked your Maiesty to haue ſerued your ſelf with them. Likewiſe (ſauing better aduiſe) it ſeemes to vs altogither vnprofitable to fetch the Armie by ſea, it may be eſchewed for manie cauſes: And amongſt others, becauſe ſuch as ſhall haue fought by ſea, ſhall be vnable being wearie to fight againe by land againſt new forces: ſo the beſt ſhould be, to ſhift by one way or other, for ſparing of your men and veſſelles, and ſo the Engliſh forces ſtaying vpõ ỹ ſea vnfought with, ſhalbe diſappointed, and ſhall not come in time, to aſſiſt them that ſhalbe

They haue informed the K. of Spaines ſubiects wracked here, of the meanes to do good by landing in Scotland.

Aduiſe to the king of Spaine how to aſſault this Iland hereafter.

Aduise to the king of Spaine, how to assault this Iland hereafter.

assailed by land. After, sending hither a part of your forces, before the other which should go the right way to England, and that secretly by the back of Ireland: Your Maiestie should compell the enemie to diuide their forces, & it may be, should cause them send the greatest part hither, where ye might make them beleeue the greatest part of your forces were arriued, at least should cause them disgarnish as much of England, and draw a great part of their forces, which would resist your landing and inuasion on that coast. And we may well promise, that hauing here sir thousand of your men, and mony to ayd others here, we should within fiue weekes after their arriuall, be a good way within England, to approach and assist the forces which your Maiestie shuld cause to enter there. The knight William Sempill colonel, can shew your Maiestie the whole to whom we leaue it. Also, we haue caused to write both before and since his departure, our many such aduises, by maister Robert Bruce, and caused to addresse the same to my Lord Duke of Parme, to whom your Maiestie remitted vs from the beginning in these affaires. And seeing we hope your Maiestie is duly aduertized and enformed, we will end the present, kissing most humbly your Maiesties hand. Praying God with all our affection, to graunt you full accomplishment of all your holie enterprises. From Edinburgh this 24. of Ianuarie. 1589.

With 6000. men sent from Spaine, & money to leauie a power in Scotland, they will in sixe weekes be far in England. Bruce is the mouth of these Lords, to the King of Spaine and Duke of Parme.

Your Maiesties most humble and affectioned seruitors. G. Earle Huntlie, &c.
In name of the other Lordes Catholikes in Scotland.

A Letter directed from the Erle of Huntly, *to the Duke of* Parme, *intercepted in Ianuarie, &c.*

Letters receiued frō the D. of Parme by

MY Lord, I haue receiued from Iohn Chesholme, the Letters it pleased your Highnesse to write, the 13. of October, full of most Christian affection to the welfare of our cause: for the

the which, I giue your highnesse most humble thanks. The sup- John Che-
port of ten thousand crownes sent to that end, is receiued by sholme.
M. Robert Bruce, which shall not be imploied but for helpe of Support of
the most vrgent necessitie of the sayd cause, as it hath pleased 10000. crownes
your highnesse to direct. After the departure of Colonel Sempil, from the Duke
I haue found my selfe so beset on all hands, and prest in such of Parme.
sort by our King, that it behoued me to yeeld to the extreame
difficultie of time, and subscribe with his Maiestie, not with my
hart, the confession of their faith, or otherwise I had bene forced He dissembles
immediatly to haue departed the countrie, or to haue taken the his religion for
fields for resisting his forces, and such as he might haue drawn feare and
out of England to his aide, which I could not haue done, speci- pollicie.
ally then, when by the returning of your armie into Spaine,
all hope of helpe was taken from vs, but if on the one part I
haue faulted, by the apprehension of dangers that threatned
my ruine, I shall on the other part endeuour my selfe to a-
mend my fault (whereof I repent me with all my heart) by
some effect, tending to the weale & aduancement of the cause of
God, who hath put me in such credit with his Maiesty, that since
my comming to the Court, he hath broken his former Gards, He hath esta-
and caused me to establish others about his person of my men, blished gards
by the means of whom and their captains, who are also mine, about the king
I may euer be maister of his person, and your support being at his own de-
arrived, spoile the heretick of his authoritie, to fortifie and as- uotion, to be
sure our enterprises: wherevpon I beseech your Highnesse to maister of his
send me your aduise, & to assure your selfe of my vnchangeable person, when
affections in my former resolutions, albeit the outward acti- occasion shall
ons be forced to conforme themselues, sometime to necessitie offer.
of occasions, as M. Robert Bruce will more amplie write vnto
your Highnesse, to whome I remit me farther. Praying God
after I haue most humblie kist your Highnesse hand, to giue
you accomplishment of your holy enterprises. From Edin-
burgh the 24 of Januarie, 1592.

Your highnesse most humble
and affectionate seruitour,
G. Earle of *Huntlie*.

A Letter from the Earle of *Erroll*, to the Duke of *Parme*, intercepted in Ianuarie, &c.

MY Lord, since God of late by the cleare light of his holy Catholike faith, hath chased from my vnderstanding the darkenesse of ignorance and errour, wherin I haue bene heretofore nourished: I haue bene as sone persuaded in acknowledging of so great an effect of his diuine grace towards me, that I am chiefly obliged to procure, sith I know the enterprises of his Catholike Maiestie and your highnesse tende principally to that end, as also to the aduancement of some ciuile cause which hath verie great affinitie & coniunction with ours here. That I may testifie by this present, the affection that I haue to the weale of the one and the other, hauing euer before my conuersion bene one of the number of your friends and seruitors for the respect of the last, to the which, the first of religion, which is the greatest & most important that is in the world, being ioined thereto, I am also become altogether yours, which I most humbly beseech your highnesse cause to be signified to his Catholike Maiestie, and to promise him in my behalfe, that he hath not in this countrie, a more affectionate seruaunt then I, neither yet your highnesse, as ye shal vnderstand more amplie of my intention in particular, by him by whom your highnesse shall receiue this present. To whom, after I haue most humblie kissed your hand, I beseech the Creator to giue you the accomplishment of your holy desires. From Edinburgh, this 24 of Ianuarie 1589.

The causes of the Papists are inseparable, for the king of Spains seruice.

Your highnesse most humble and most affectioned seruitant,
Francis earle of *Erroll*.

A Letter from *Robert Bruce* to *Monſieur Franciſce Aguirre* Spaniard, &c. intercepted in Ianuarie, 1589, written in French, and tranſlated into Scottiſh, as followeth.

MOnſieur de Aguirre, I haue receiued your Letter, dated the ninth of Nouember, written from Andwerpe, whereby I was glad to vnderſtand of your arriuall there and health, and that you haue guided your ſelfe ſo wiſely in the execution of all that I committed to you. Your maiſter, who at my requeſt hath giuen you entertainment, hath giuen me the like teſtimonie of your behauiour, and hath promiſed me by his letters to haue you in the fauourable commendation I deſired, and to employ you in good occaſions. If he ſend you hither againe into theſe parts cauſe your ſelfe to be ſet on land neere Seytoun, where I pray you to enter ſecretly, and there you ſhal be kept while I may come and find you, &c.

The reſt of this miſſiue being ſet downe in obſcure terms, is to be ſeene in the originall.

A Letter from *Robert Bruce* to the Duke of *Parme*, intercepted in Ianuary 1589. Lately before the Rode of the bridge of Die, ciphered in French, deciphered afterward, and tranſlated into *Scottiſh* as followeth.

MY Lord, Monſieur Cheſholme arriued in this countrie fiue daies after his departing from thence, and with requiſit diligence came to the Earle of Huntlie in his own houſe in Dunfermeling, where hauing preſented to him your highneſſe letters, of the 13 of October, he declared amplie vnto him

Letters ſent by Iohn Cheſholme frō the Duke of Parme

to the Earle of Huntlie, and receiued by him at Dunfermeling.

the credit giuen him in charge, conformable to the tenour of the letters from your highnesse, wherein they perceiued your highnesse great humanitie and affection, to the aduancement of the glorie of God in this countrie, with other consolations most conuenient, to moderat the dolour & displeasure conceaued by the harts of the Catholikes, by reason of the successe of your armie, against their hope and expectation. Also some dayes afterward, as the commoditie offered to me to receiue the money, the said Chesholme deliuered to me six thousand two hundred three score & twelue crownes of the Sun, & three thousand seuen hundred Spanish Pistolets, and likewise hath caried himselfe in all his actions since very wisely, and as becomes a man of God: cheefly then, when vpon the suspition conceaued of his so suddaine returning, the king sent to take him. I shall behaue my selfe by the grace of God, in the keeping and distribution of the monie last sent and of that which resteth yet of the first summe, according to your highnesse prescription, and as I ought to answer to God in conscience, and to your highnesse in credit, and to the whole world in the reputation of an honest man, and will mannage it in such sort, that by the grace of God there shal be fruit drawn therof pleasant to your highnesse. It is true that I find (as all others would doe, that would enterprise such a charge here) my self involued in great difficulties: for on the one part I am in great danger of the heretikes, & of them of the faction of England, by reason of the open profession that I make of the Catholike religiõ, and of the suspicion that the last hath of my secret practises and dealing against them. On the other part, I haue much ado to moderate the appetite that some Catholike lords haue, to haue the monie presently, for the hope which they giue of some pretended occasions, which will neuer fall out as they promise. The Earle of Huntlie made instance to haue the third part of the summe which was sent hither as soone as it was deliuered to me, but he hath not toucht, nor shal not touch herafter a halfpeny but vpon good tokens. I haue paied him in the meane time with inexpugnable reasons, wherwith in the end he is cõtẽted. I beseech your highnesse, by the first letter it shall please you to writs,

19000 Crounes receiued from the Duke of Parma by Bruce, to be imploied for the king of Spaine his seruice in Scotland.

The money is to be distributed among the Catholike Nobilitie of Scotlãd.

The Earle of Huntlie would haue a third part to himself.

wrote into their parts, to the Catholike Lordes, to remoue one errour from thée, who haue written there in name of the reſidue, that moues them to thinke, by reaſon they were the firſt that made offer of their ſeruice to the King Catholike, that all the money that comes hither, ſhould be parted in thée, and immediatly after the arriuall thereof deliuer it to them, without giuing part to others, which beſide them are in great number to the King Catholikes ſeruice, and yours; and alſo deliberate to hazard after their power for the aduancement of this cauſe, as they are; of whom the others will not depend in any ſort, in the accepting of the means that comes from your liberality, both acknowledge them as comming directly from your Highneſſe, to whom onely they will be bound and obliged, and not to the other thrée. Of the which, the Earle of Mortoun, hath hitherto contented himſelfe with reaſon: As alſo the Earle of Huntlie, hath neuer ſhowne himſelfe ſubiect to money, but ſince he hath bene induced by the third, to wit, my Lord Claud Hammiltoun * his vncle, who is ſomewhat couetous of gaine, and thought vnder ſuch pretext to make his profit. The ſayd Earle of Huntlie, is conſtrained to remaine at Court; he is fallen from his conſtancie in his outward profeſſion of the Catholike Religion, partly, for hauing loſt all hope of your ſupport before the returning of the ſaid Cheſholme, becauſe of his long ſtaie there, partly by the perſwaſion of ſome politikes, partly to eſchew the perils imminent to all them that call themſelues Catholikes, partly to kéepe himſelfe in the fauour of his King, who preſſed him greatly to ſubſcribe to the confeſſion of the heretickes, and to be at league with England. But for all this, his heart is no whit alienated from our cauſe: for he hath the ſoule euer good, albeit he haue not ſuch vigour to perſeuere and execute ſo as is requiſit in ſo great an enterprize: but they may helpe the defectes, ioyning with him a man of credit, reſolute to aſſiſt him, as we haue aduiſed to do, ſince the Baron of Fentrie is put in ward by the King, in the Towne of Dundie: So that he durſt not goe out of the gates thereof, vnder the paine of a great ſumme, vntill occaſion may be offered to depart the Countrie, within the time limitted. And I

What euer this Noble mã hath bene, at this time it is not to be obiected to him now after his faith and ſubſcription giuen to the contrarie.

The Earle of Huntly, diſſembles his Religion firſt, for feare and pollicie, after to worke his matters the better.

by the Kings Commandement, am forbidden to come neare the said Erle: because they haue attributed to the said Laird of Fentrie and me, his constancie in the Catholike Religion, and his absence from Court against the Kings will: His warding hath somewhat hindered our course, and permits me not to moue him, as it hath pleased you to command me, and as I desire to dispence the money continually with me: so that for supplying of the default of him, I haue associated to the same end, a verie honest man, & verie wise called father William Creichtoun Iesuit, who was deteined some yeres in the Citie of London, after he was taken vpon the sea, comming hitherwards from France. Likewise, I shall helpe my selfe by the prudence of Sir Iames Chesholme, eldest brother to the said Iohn, who brought the mony from your Highnesse: For he is a man confident, wise, one on our part, and verie litle suspect. In the meantime, the one part of the money, is in the principall house of my Lord Leuingstoun, a verie Catholike Lord, the other here in Edinburgh, in suretie inough, to helpe as it shall need the Lords Catholiks, who will come verie soone hither to resist, to the purposes of them of the faction of England, who in the same time, are purposed to remaine at Court, with forces to raunge all things at their fantacie. As for the like summe or greater, which your Highnesse will is to cause follow the last sent hither: it is good in al euēts, it were very soone sent hither, secretly to help the necessitie that may fal out, & to cause things incline to our side, when they are in ballance, as there is great appearance they will be, by the occasion aforesaid: And in case that necessitie requires no distribution, the said summe shall be kept, and reserued to better occasions, or till the arriuall of your forces in this Ile. There is suspition, as also arguments probable inough, that Thomas Tyrie, who hath brought hither your Highnesse Letters to our King, hath not behaued himself according to his dutie: For he hath accommodat himselfe in his behauiour, more after the affection of our Chanceller (who is of the faction of England, and abuseth the credit he hath with the King) then according to the instructions giuen him there. He hath not presented nor made mention to the King of Colo-

Sir Iames Chesholme, brother to Iohn Chesholme a confederate.

The mony is in my L. Leuingstones chiefe house, and at Edinburgh, to serue the Catholike Noblemens turnes that are shortly to assemble.

More money promised by the Duke of Parme.

It is ment that Spanish forces should arriue in this Iland.

nell

nell Sempills Letter, whereof I haue caused the copie to be pre-
sented to his Maiestie by the Earle Bouthwell, as if it had bene
sent to him with another of the said Colonells to himself, which
he receiued from Thomas Tyrie at his arrinall, who hath re-
ported to the said Chanceller all that Seigneur don Bernardi-
no spake to him in Paris, to the disaduantage of the said Chan-
celler. Also, he hath reported to the King, that my L. Bishop
of Dumblane, being returned thither, spake to your Highnesse,
and to others many things, to the great preiudice of his High-
nesse: And it is beleeued also, that he is the cause of the suspitiõ
which is conceiued of the comming of the said Iohn Chesholm,
newly to the said Bishop. How euer it be, the other reports a-
foresaid, which he hath made, haue not serued to conciliat, but to
alienate the affection of the King, of the Chanceller, and many
others Heretickes, from the said Siegneur don Bernardino,
the sayd Bishop, and Catholikes here, that haue had to do
with them. As for me, albeit I speake not willingly to the dis-
aduantage of any whatsoeuer, chiefly of them whom I haue
recommended, as I did the sayd Thomas Tyrie, to the said
Don Bernardino, yet I will preferre the loue of the truth to
men, and would not in concealing thereof, bring preiudice to
the publike weale, nor to the fidelitie ý the one oweth to the
other; and specially to that we owe all to the King of Spaine,
and your highnesse, to whõ I am presently seruant, particular-
ly addicted by the Obligation of fiue hundreth crownes of fee,
and fortie for monethly entertainment, which it hath pleased
your highnesse, to giue me freely in name of the King of Spain,
not being required for my part, nor other thing for my particu-
lar to this present: by reason whereof, I am the more bound
to giue your highnesse most humble thanks, & to endeuour my
selfe to deserue by my most humble and faithfull seruices, as
well the said entertainment, as the recompense it hath pleased
your highnesse to promise me of your grace & fauour. The said
gift of your liberalitie, came well for my purpose, seeing by
reason of the danger of my person, it behoued me to augment
my ordinarie traine for my greater suretie, which I was not
able longer to haue borne out without helpe. For from all the

They count our King amongst the heretickes.

Bruce seruant to the King of Spaine, and to the D. of Parme, hath one pension of 40. crownes in the moneth, and 500. crownes of ferill.

Bruce hath negotiated in Spaine with the K. and in the low countries with the D. of Parme.

Lords of Scotland, I haue not retained but a part only of the mony, which I spent trauelling, for the weale of this cause in Spain with his Catholike Maiestie, and with your highnesse in the low countries. As for the foure hundreth crownes, imployd for the deliuerance of Colonell Sempill out of prison, I haue put it in coũt with the residue which I disbursed of the first sum, according as it hath pleased your Highnesse to commaund me.

Whatsoeuer this Noble man hath bene, at this time it is not to be obiected to him, now after his oath and subscription giuen to the contrary, if he remaine constant.

The Earle of Mourtoun * to whom I haue giuen consolation by writing in prison, hath instantly praied me also by writing, to remember his most affectioned seruice to your highnes. Finding himself greatly honored, by the care it pleased you to haue of him. By the grace of God, he is no more in danger of his life by way of iustice; It not being possible to his enemies to proue against him any thing which they had supposed in his accusation: As also the Kings affection not so far alienate from him, as it hath bene heretofore: And incase they would noy him, or that it were presently requisit for the weale of our cause to deliuer him, we haue euer meanes to get him out of prison, and attend in the meane time, but the Kings will toward his libertie, onely to auoid all pursute that they would make, if we deliuer him extraordinarily. When they offered him in the Kings name his libertie, if he would subscribe the Confession of the heretikes Faith, he answered, he would not do it for the Kings Crowne, nor for a hundreth thousand liues, if he had them to lose; And hath offered to confound the Ministers by publike disputation. I shall solicite the Lords his friends to procure of the King, his libertie verie sone: For he imports more the weale of our cause, thẽ any of the rest, by reason of his forces which are neare England, and the principall Towne of Scotland, and the ordinary residence of our King; As also he is a Lord the most resolute, constant, and of greatest execution of any of the Catholickes. It is no small maruell considering the meanes the heretickes haue to hurt vs, and their worldly wits so far passing ours, and their euill will and intention against vs, that we subsist. Truly, we cannot but attribute the effect thereof to God, who (then when the certaine newes of the returning of the Armie of Spaine by the backe of

Ireland,

Ireland, were dispersed through this countrie, & the heretikes of the faction of England triumphed, and the constancie in the outward profession of the Earle of Huntlie and others was altered) caused the Earle of Angus to die, who was cheefe of the English faction, & the selfe same time grew some dissention amongst the heretikes, by reason of some offices that some pretended to vsurpe aboue others at Court, and by the instant prayers and holy persuasions of two fathers Iesuits, conuerted to our holy faith, two heretike Earles of the chiefest authoritie amongst them, the one whereof is called the earle of Erroll, Constable of Scotland, conuerted by father Edmund Hay, the other called the Earle of Craufurd, conuerted by the said father William Creichtoun. They are both able and wise young Lords, and most desirous to aduaunce the Catholike faith and your enterprises in this Ile, which they are determined to testifie to his Catholike Maiestie & your highnesse by their owne letters, which by the grace of God I will send by the first opportunitie. In the meane time they haue required me to make you offer of their most humble and most affectioned seruice, promising to follow whatsoeuer the same Iesuits and I shall thinke good to be done, for the conseruation of the Catholikes, and to dispose and facilitat the execution of your enterprises here, which they may do more easilie then they that are knowne to be Catholicks, whose actions are euer suspicious to the heretickes for their religion, whereof these two Earles haue not yet made outward profession: but in that as in the rest, they submit themselues to our will, and to that we think most expedient. The said Fathers of that companie do profit verie much in Scotland, and so sone as any Lord or other person of importance is conuerted by them, they dispose and incline in the very meane time their affection to the seruice of the king of Spaine and your highnesse, as a thing inseparable conioined with the aduancement of the true Religion in this countrie. If I had commandement from your highnesse, I would giue them some little almes in your name to helpe them & eight others, whereof foure are also Iesuits, and the other foure are seminarie priests of Pontawmoussone in Lorraine, which are al the

The king of Spaine & duke of Parma haue enterprises to be executed in Scotland.

The Iesuits and Priests do great hurt in Scotlād.

Hereby it is euident that the declining of papistrie draws with it defectiō from our natiue kings obedience, to the seruice of the king of Spaine and D. of Parme.

Ecclesiastikes that produceth so great spirituall fruit in Scotland, and acquires to you here such augmentation of your friends and seruaunts. After the parting of Colonell Sempill from hence, the Lords sent letters with the said father Creichtoun and other Gentlemen after the armie of Spaine, to cause it land in this countrie, but it had taken the way to Spaine few daies before their arriuall at the Ilands, where it had refreshed it selfe, so that it was not possible for them to attend on it. They of this countrie that are of the faction of England, were in a maruellous feare during the incertaintie of the landing of the sayd armie, and confessed plainly, if it had landed here they had bene vtterly ouercome. The Earle Boithwell, who is Admirall of Scotland, and as gallant a Lord as any is in the countrie, albeit he make profession of the new religion, yet is he extremely desirous to assist you against England, hauing waged and intertained all this summer (vnder pretence to go daunt the Iles) some troupes of men of warre, which togither with his ordinarie forces, should haue ioined with yours if they had come hither. He suffers himselfe to be peaceablie guided by me, notwithstanding the diuersitie of our religion, and hath often times sayd, that if the Catholikes would giue him suretie to possesse, after the restitution of the Catholikes religion, two Abbies which he hath, that he would euen presently be altogether one of yours. He intends to send the Colonell Halkerstoun, to accompanie certaine Captaines and gentlemen to Spaine, and almost foure hundred souldiors, all safe from the Naufrage in our Iles. And because they are in great necessitie, he is purposed to furnish them with ships, vittels, and other things necessarie, to testifie thereby to the king of Spaine the affection he hath to do him most humble and affectionate seruice. And if we thinke it good, hath offered himself to go out of the countrie, and to go offer himselfe to your highnesse in the low Countries, and by your aduise afterward, doe the like to his Catholike Maiestie in Spaine. But herevpon we will aduise what is most expedient. If we may alwaies be assured of him, he will be as profitable for the weale of our cause, as any Lord in Scotland, for he hath great dependance about this

The Popish Lords did send by Chreichtoun to moue the Spanish fleete to land in Scotland.

this towne, which is the principall of Scotland, as also vpon the frontiers of England. He hath offered to maintain and defend me against all that would attempt any thing against me. We haue chosen for euery Catholike Lord, a gentleman of the wisest and faithfullest Catholikes, and best beloued of their friends, to serue them in counsell, and to meete at all occassions, to resolue vpon the most expedientest courses that may concerne the weale of our cause, according to the will and intẽtion of their Lords, who haue obliged themselues to approue and execute their resolutions, and in no wise to contradict the same: and by that means we hope to proceed with greater securitie and effect then we haue done heretofore. Alwaies they shall know nothing of our intelligences there, nor our finall intentions, but according to the exigence of the affairs which shal be in hand, and that superficially, and without discouering our selues ouer far. Your highnesse shall vnderstand by the particular letters of the Lords that which resteth to be sayd to you by these presents: by reason whereof I will make an end most humbly kissing your highnesse hands, and praying God to giue you all the good hope and felicitie you desire. From Edinburgh, the 24 of Ianuarie, 1589.

A counsell of chosen men, for euery Catholike Lord are erected by Bruce, for the execution of Catholike enterprises.

Your Highnesse most humble
and most affectioned seruitour,
Robert Bruce.